

1194.22(o): Skip Link

Definition

- A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.

Background

- The purpose of the skip link is to allow the user to by-pass repetitive navigational links to the main content of the page.
- For those who use screen readers or other types of assistive technologies, it can be a tedious and time-consuming chore to wait for the assistive technology to work through and announce each of the standard navigational links before getting to the intended location.

Technique 1: Text

- Should be the first link on the page
 - Code:
 - `Skip to Main Content`
- Main Content Area
 - Code:
 - ``

Technique 1 (cont)

- Why have it visible?
 - Available to all users including all types of assistive technology pointing devices and users who only use the keyboard.
 - Design consideration on where to place the Skip Link text
 - Text visible on page(s)

Technique 2: Image

- Should be first link on page
 - Code: 1 pixel transparent gif
 - ``
- Main content area
 - Code
 - ``

Technique 2 (cont)

- Why have it invisible?
 - Not visible on web page(s)
 - Doesn't affect visual design of pages
 - Not visual to users with assistive technology pointing devices and users who only use the keyboard.
 - Can only be viewed with graphics turned off

Common Errors

- Error 1: Missing Anchor

- You have the Bookmark:

- ``

- Missing the anchor:

- ``

Common Errors (cont)

- Error 2: Bookmark

- Missing Bookmark:

- ``

- Have the anchor:

- ``

Common Errors (cont)

- Error 3: Bookmark
 - Bookmark is not assigned to a value
 - ``
 - Anchor
 - `<a>`

Common Errors (cont)

- Error 4: HTML coding error
 - Bookmark:
 - ` `
 - Anchor:
 - ``
 - Issue:
 - Alt is not a valid HTML attribute for ``

Bad Design Coding

- Error 5: Bad design

- Bookmark:

- ` `
 - Text same color as background

- Anchor:

- ``

- Issue:

- Screen reader and Braille reader say “ this page link space”
 - Not visible to anyone

Bad Design Coding (cont)

- Error 6: Bad design

- Bookmark:

- `A`
 - Text same color as background

- Anchor:

- ``

- Issue:

- Not visible unless color turned off
 - Tabbing to link doesn't show TITLE attribute because tooltips are a mouse function